IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D.C., United States of America

In re Application of   EHLING et al.

Serial No.:   09/921,351

Filed: 08/02/2001

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR
CONDITIONING COMMUNITED TOBACCO
MATERIAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 1.97(b)

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, the references listed below are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above identified patent application. A copy of the cited references is enclosed.

U.S. REFERENCE CITED:

Patent Publication	Patentee/Inventor	Date
5,740,817	Cunningham	April 21, 1998

FOREIGN REFERENCES CITED (ENGLISH VERSION):

Patent Publication	Patentee/Inventor	Date
WO 99/23898	Mastrolilli, Anna	May 20, 1999

1
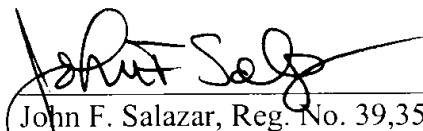
FOREIGN REFERENCES CITED (NON-ENGLISH VERSION):

Patent Publication	Patentee/Inventor	Date
WO 90/06695	Engri, Laszio	June 28, 1990

Certification Under 37 CFR §1.97(b)

This information is being submitted before the mailing of the first office action. As such, no fee is due. The English version of the above referenced PCT Publication No. WO/90/06695 prior art will be forwarded as soon as a translation is completed.
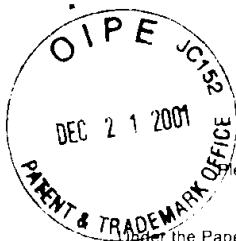
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 21, 2001

Encl: Form PTO/SB/21; PTO/SB/08A (including a copy of the references); Return postcard for evidencing receipt of above items

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/921,351
Filing Date	08/02/2001
First Named Inventor	Ehling et al.
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	
Attorney Docket Number	BATG-6

ENCLOSURES *(check all that apply)*

- [ ] Fee Transmittal Form
  - [ ] Fee Attached
- [ ] Amendment / Reply
  - [ ] After Final
  - [ ] Affidavits/declaration(s)
- [ ] Extension of Time Request
- [ ] Express Abandonment Request
- [x] Information Disclosure Statement
- [ ] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- [ ] Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - [ ] Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- [ ] Assignment Papers *(for an Application)*
- [ ] Drawing(s)
- [ ] Licensing-related Papers
- [ ] Petition
- [ ] Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- [ ] Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- [ ] Terminal Disclaimer
- [ ] Request for Refund
- [ ] CD, Number of CD(s) _____

- [ ] After Allowance Communication to Group
- [ ] Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- [ ] Appeal Communication to Group *(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)*
- [ ] Proprietary Information
- [ ] Status Letter
- [ ] Other Enclosure(s) *(please identify below)*:
  Information Disclosure Letter
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Remarks

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	John F. Salazar, Reg. No. 39,353
Signature	*[signature]*
Date	12/21/2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 12/21/2001

Typed or printed name	Doris Otto		
Signature	*[signature]*	Date	12/21/2001